

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02331 211538Z

61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /089 W
----- 027655

R 211302Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WSHDC 7743

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2331

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: DANISH JOURNALISTS COMMENTS ON SHAPE MEETINGS

1. NIELS JORGENHAAGERUP, EDITORIAL WRITER AND COLUMNIST FOR CONSERVATIVE BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, COMMENTS IN SISTER PUBLICATION, WEEKENDAVISEN, ON RECENT VISIT TO SHAPE.
2. QUOTE DURING A VISIT TO A MILITARY HEADQUARTERS NOBODY EXPECTS THAT POLITICAL DETENTE DOMINATES THE BRIEFING. EMPHASIS MUST OF COURSE REST ON INFORMATION ABOUT THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF THE TWO OPPOSING EUROPEAN ALLIANCE SYSTEMS. BUT HERE THE BRIEFINGS SUFFER FROM AN OBVIOUS WEAKNESS. ONE GETS TO KNOW TOO LITTLE ABOUT THE ALLIED FORCES, WHILE THE MANY REFERENCES TO THE STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES CAN LEAD TO AN INCOMPLETE AND EXCESSIVELY UNFAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN EUROPE.
3. QUOTE THE MILITARY SITUATION IS INCONTESTABLY MARKED BY AN ADVANTAGE IN FAVOR OF THE EAST WHICH IS GROWING IN THESE YEARS. THERE IS ALL POSSIBLE REASON FOR BEING CONCERNED WITH THIS IN A HEADQUARTERS WHICH REGARDLESS OF DETENTE AND RAPPROACHMENT HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLANNING OF MILITARY DEFENSE.

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4. QUOTE BUT EVENIF THAT WARSAW PACT FORCES ARE MUCH LARGER THAN IS NECESSARY FOR THEIR DEFENSE NEEDS ACCORDING TO WESTERN ASSESSMENT, IT IS MISLEADING TO HEAR LEADING OFFICERS IN SHAPE BRIEF VISITORS ABOUT THEIR OPINION ON SOVIET INTENTIONS.

5. QUOTE WESTERN POLITICIANS, DIPLOMATS, POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, AND COMMENTATORS ARE IN DISAGREEMENT ON SOVIET INTENTIONS. THE SUPREME ALLIED MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, HOWEVER, IS NOT THE PLACE WHERE ONE SEEKS INFORMATION ON THE INTENTIONS OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, NO MATTER WHAT IS ADVANCED IN PRECISE ANALYSIS OR, AS HERE, IN TURNS OF PHRASE WHICH EXPRESS A POLITICAL JUDGMENT.

6. QUOTE MANY PEOPLE WHO EVERY YEAR COME TO SHAPE FOR BRIEFINGS AND WHO COULD PROFIT FROM AN INTEREST IN THE AMAZINGLY SMOOTH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATO COUNTRIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO A SOBER MILITARY BRIEFING BUT SHOULD BE SPARED THE OFFICERS POLITICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE EAST.
END QUOTE.
HELLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COPENH02331
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730919/aaaaanzt.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH JOURNALISTS COMMENTS ON SHAPE MEETINGS
TAGS: MARR
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005